



Office of the Chief Architect
Art in Architecture/Fine Arts (PCAC)
1800 F Street, NW, Suite 5400
Washington, DC 20405

April 9, 2019

Dr. Vincent Matthews
Superintendent
San Francisco Unified School District
555 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Dr. Matthews,

I'm writing to you in regard to the New Deal mural series *Life of George Washington* by the artist Victor Arnautoff located in the George Washington High School in San Francisco. It has come to GSA's attention from multiple sources that the mural is in danger of being painted over due to the sensitive nature of the subject matter. Because of the unusually high volume of inquiries received, GSA's Fine Arts staff has completed preliminary research regarding the mural. We have been able to confirm that the artist worked for the WPA, Federal Art Project (1935-1943) and that the mural was created under the WPA, Federal Art Project (1935-1943) for the George Washington High School in San Francisco, but we have not found at this time any documentation indicating that the mural is the property of the federal government. We will continue to look for documentation about the mural and have placed the artwork on a list to be researched at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Art. If you have documentation indicating proof of ownership of the mural in your files, we would appreciate the opportunity to review that information.

Due to the large number of inquiries we have received from concerned citizens, we kindly request that you keep us apprised of any decisions you make regarding the mural and provide us with a point of contact for the project where we can refer those concerned for more information. Please do not hesitate to contact Julie Redwine at julie.redwine@gsa.gov if you have any questions. I am also happy to discuss the matter at any time.

Sincerely,

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CC: Mr. Stevon Cook, Board President, San Francisco Unified School District